

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

♦
October/November 2025
Newsletter



Women's Retreat

18 women attended our first women's retreat in many years and it was a wonderful weekend to get away and enjoy the beautiful fall weather together at Camp Arnold. Thank you to the planning committee: Dauna Rittenhouse, Renea Williamson, Chelsea Williamson, and Carol Murray for planning the wonderful retreat!



In this newsletter you can expect:

Letter from the
Pastor

Calendar

Educational
Opportunities

Up Coming
Activities

Report from the
Pentecost Team



ONLINE GIVING



LPC FACEBOOK

Letter from Pastor Laura



What is God up to? That's a question I've been asking myself for the past few months. When I arrived here two years ago as your new pastor, I knew that I was entering into the work that God was already doing in and through you. It wasn't the start of your ministry! So over the past two years, I've been slowly getting to know you as individual people and know this congregation as a community. I have loved that work. I love learning what gets you fired up and what makes your soul sing. I have loved learning the rhythms of our worshipping life together that makes this congregation unique. I learned that coffee hour is really the second half of the worship service. I learned that if there's a need, someone will find a way to fill it. I learned that loving each other like family means sticking it out through hard times and showing up in small ways, over and over again. I learned that I love being your pastor.

I've also been spending a lot of time listening for the voice of God, for it is Christ who is the head of this church, not me. Last year, the Session went through a year-long discernment process called the Feasibility Study, which ended with the congregational meeting in December. Session's motions passed by a slim margin at the meeting, which inspired a new round of discerning and dreaming,

this time with a new committee called the "LPC Action Plan Team." That team has been using Rooted Good's Good Futures Accelerator to dream about how God might be calling us to use our collective gifts and passions to serve the community of Lakewood in new and meaningful ways. We are still in the middle of that process, but I can already tell that **God is up to something exciting.** There are tiny whispers from the Holy Spirit everywhere I look—conversations with community members that unlock new ideas, new church members who are energized to serve, a gaggle of kids who bring so much joy to our worship together, and a love that propels me into action. Yes, I see that God is calling us into an exciting new chapter of our ministry together.

We'll be talking more about these nudges from the Holy Spirit in our Stewardship campaign called "Unfinished Business" and that will be October 12-26th, concluding with our annual Stewardship Potluck after worship on the 26th. There will be mailings going out early next month and I hope you'll join us in worship as we listen to God together about what it means for us to steward the gifts— the people, the land, and the resources— that we have been given to love and serve both God and neighbor.

Pastor Laura

Church Calendar

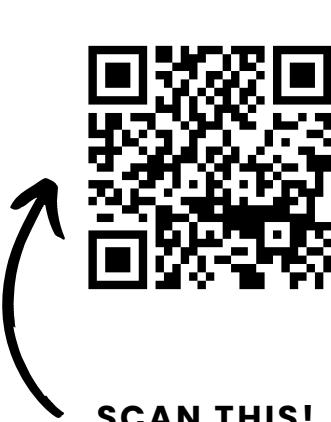
October 11, 3:30 - 5:00 pm	Godly Play Orientation
October 14, 4:30 pm	Session Meeting
October 19, 9:00 am	Godly Play
October 19, 6:00 pm	Justice & Mercy Talk @ Lakewood UMC
October 22, 12:00 pm	"Friends who Feast" at Hops n Drops
October 24, 5:00 - 9:00 pm	Chili Cook Off and Pumpkin Carving
October 26, 11:30 am	Stewardship Potluck
October 31, 4:00 - 6:00 pm	Trunk or Treat



November 2, 3:00 am	Change Clocks, Fall Back 1 Hour
November 9, 9:00 am	Godly Play
November 11, 4:30 pm	Session Meeting
November 14, 11:00 pm	Deadline for Advent Newsletter
November 15, 10 am - 2:00 pm	"Four Gospels: One Jesus" Class
November 29, 10:00 am - 2:15 pm	Church Decorating for Advent

Ongoing:	
Thursdays 10:00 am	Gentle Yoga
Thursdays 10/1-11/5 10:30-11:45am	Spirituality of Aging Class

Did you know we have a podcast?



If you miss coming to church on a Sunday, you can still catch the sermon! We now have a podcast where you can catch up on the sermon every Sunday afternoon. [Follow the link](#), scan the QR code, or subscribe on Apple Podcasts to "[Lakewood Presbyterian Church Sermons](#)".

Questions? Call Pastor Laura!

*Join us for
worship,
Sundays at 10:30a.*

Educational Opportunities



We have been blessed with not one but two grants to support our growing children's ministry! In August, we received a \$5,000 grant from Columbia Theological Seminary's Wonder of Worship Grants to support our children's ministry over the next two years. Then in September, we received the Circle of We grant from the Godly Play Foundation to receive all the story materials we need for our first year of Godly Play, worth hundreds of dollars. It is extremely exciting and humbling to receive such meaningful support from outside organizations who believe in what we are doing here at LPC.

Children ages 3 through 5th Grade and their parents are invited to our Godly Play Orientation on Saturday October 11th from 3:30-5:00pm at the church. The orientation is to teach both children and parents about what to expect in a Godly Play class. Everyone will have the opportunity to learn about what Godly Play is and then we will do an entire class together. If there are younger siblings, the nursery will be open (no childcare provided) for parents to be with them during the class session. This year, Godly Play will be once a month, before worship from 9:00-10:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

Families, mark your calendars with the fall dates for Godly Play:

October 19th

November 16th

December 14th



Adult Education: Spirituality of Aging Class

Wednesdays October 1-November 5
10:30-11:45 am

The Spirituality of Aging strives to etch out a new genre in the "books on aging" market that will invite readers to reflect on their own lives and see their stories as part of a larger narrative. Since we are best at making meaning in community, this collection is organized into six sessions for group conversation. In each session/chapter, you'll find a poem, an essay, bible passages, and a series of discussion questions, which we'll discuss at our weekly meetings. Even if you have to miss a week or two, you can still follow along with the materials at home.

To sign-up, email Pastor Laura at
laura@lakewoodpres.org

Education Opportunity

Introduction to the Four Gospels



Have you ever wondered why we have Four gospels in the Bible instead of one? Did you know that there isn't a donkey mentioned in any of the gospel accounts of the nativity? Are you interested in learning more about how the stories of Jesus' ministry on Earth speak to us today? Then join us for **"Four Gospels: One Jesus"**, a half-day class diving into the mystery of the four-fold gospel.

The class will be Saturday November 15th from 10am-2pm with a soup lunch provided. The class will include lecture, group discussion, interactive activities, and even a take-home craft! You won't want to miss it!



World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday is a celebratory Sunday that invites us to think beyond the walls of our own congregation. On this day people around the world celebrate communion as an act of radical unity. While we gather at our own Table to celebrate Christ's joyful feast, we will also remember, with fondness, our siblings in faith celebrating this same meal around the world.

Family Fun

Trunk or Treat

Halloween is a Friday this year, so we'll be hosting a **Trunk or Treat** at the church on October 31st from 4-6pm. There will be trick or treating in the parking lot with warm drinks and activities in the Fellowship Hall! It will be a great way to connect with our neighbors and provide a warm, safe space for families to trick or treat. Many of the people who attend our annual Easter Egg Hunt do so because it's a safe, accessible place for their little kids, so we hope we can provide that again this fall! In order for the event to be a success, we need at least **10 people** to sign up to host a "trunk"! Each person who signs up is responsible for decorating their car and providing candy. Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or email Pastor Laura if you're interested in being a part of it!



Chili Cook Off & Pumpkin Carving

Friday, October 24th
5:00 - 9:00 pm

Bring your favorite chili recipe to share. After the meal together, we'll carve our pumpkins.

Bring your own pumpkin (and your best carving tools!) and get into the Halloween spirit as we carve pumpkins together.



WHO ARE WE?

PASTOR
REV. LAURA NILE TUELL

NURSERY STAFF
PARKER WILLIAMSON
KIRI-ANN ZAMBARD

PIANIST
XIAOHUI YANG

CUSTODIAN
ANDREA RITTENHOUSE

2025 CHURCH LEADERS
DEACONS
MELINDA ROGIERS
BARBARA POLAND
TOM CALLAHAN
CANDICE COCHRAN
TINA MESSMER

ELDERS
SUZY FARLEY
BRAD TOURANGEAU
BECKY BUESCHER
JENNIFER ROGIERS
JAMIR SIMONS
DAUNA RITTENHOUSE

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
MELINDA ROGIERS

CLERK OF SESSION
BECKY BUESCHER

TREASURER
JAMIE SIMONS

Looking Back at the "Summer Road Trip through the National Parks "

Over the summer, we took a break from our regular lectionary-based services for a 7 week series called "Summer Road Trip: A Journey through Scripture and our National Parks." From Mt. Rainier in our backyard to Big Bend on our Southern border, we saw how God meets us in some of our country's most beautiful places. In the Redwoods, we saw that **being rooted in God's love** means being connected to one another.

At Mt. Rainier, we were reminded that **God is present, even when we can't see God**, just like the days when "the Mountain's not out." And of course, the Grand Canyon is the clearest example of how **creation proclaims God's glory!** If you missed the series, you can get a copy of the devotional "America's Holy Ground" by Brad Lyons and Bruce Barkhauer to take your own "fall road trip."

Pentecost Seasonal Team Report

The Pentecost Seasonal Team consisted of Felicia Kelly, Edna Drummond, Tina Messmer, Melinda Rogiers, Chris Piatt and Dauna Rittenhouse. All had a great time selecting the theme of National Parks as sermon topics.

We hope you enjoyed the bulletin inserts, special nametags, passports and the drawing.

We celebrated Father's Day with little "goodie bags" for all our men in the congregation that Sunday. We had a Men's breakfast tea with kids helping to serve.

David Nile Tuell lead our kids for a fun day, along with Pastor Laura, Brad Tourangeau and Melinda Rogiers.

Our picnic/potluck, a favorite tradition, was a huge success. Special thanks to the Rogiers Family.

Game Night was well attended and enjoyed by kids and adults.

Our last Summer Activity was the Rainier's Game, coordinated by Stephen Hornyak. It was a fun night at the ballpark.

We thank all of you who volunteered as worship leaders, activity leaders or attended worship services and activities this Pentecost Season.



Justice & Mercy Talks

A Community Series hosted by UMC at Lakewood

This past summer The United Methodist Church at Lakewood engaged in deep listening and discernment around the issues that matter the most to them. Out of that work emerged a powerful list of social concerns that call for both compassion and action, and require learning.

They intend to host a series designed to spark learning, dialogue, and connection:

A series of **TED-style talks and Panel Conversations** exploring the issues we care about – together.

Causes We Care About

Food Insecurities
Affordable Housing
LGBTQIA+ Support and Inclusivity
Affordable Health Care
Immigration Rights
Livable Wages & Unions

"Which of these causes matter most to you?"
"How did you come to care about this?"

Each evening will feature multiple voices – activities, practitioners, community leaders and neighbors – offering brief, powerful presentations or participating in moderated panels.

UMC Lakewood's Objectives:

- Equip the congregation through learning and meaningful conversation about issues they say matter.
- Welcome our broader community into an open space for dialogue and shared understanding.
- Create pathways for collaboration between their church, local organizations and community members.

Save the Dates:

Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 7, Jan 18, Feb 15,
Mar 15, April 19, May 17
Sundays 6:00-7:15pm
6900 Steilacoom Blvd SW.

October 19th 6pm

